

It is an old experience that our presidents owe their election to the mistakes of their rivals. When Bryan traveled over the country McKinley stayed at home. Bryan preached free silver and every speech he made gained votes for McKinley. So again recently Mr. Hughes and his supporter Colonel Roosevelt went about making speeches, and their statements raised serious doubts in the voters' minds about the advisability of Hughes for a president.

There are too many people among Mr. Hughes's own party who have found reason to distrust him, people who felt that his election would endanger the peace of the whole country, and there are other minor reasons which contributed to the final result. Mr. Hughes made peace with Colonel Roosevelt but not with the Progressives. His campaign was managed by the old guard to the exclusion of any other element. It would have been better if Mr. Hughes had made peace with the Progressives and kept away from Colonel Roosevelt. Mr. Wilson's success in California seems to be due to the support he received from the labor unions.

It seemed as though it would be easy to defeat Mr. Wilson. He has made so many mistakes that history is not likely to pronounce a favorable verdict upon his administration, but it would have taken a stronger man than Hughes to beat him.

As matters now stand we must trust to the manhood of Congress, and we hope that the members of Congress will have enough backbone to hold back the present incumbent of the presidency and make him live up to our national traditions. We want an American president, not one who considers the interests of England first and those of our own country as secondary. P. C.

MOHAMMED'S ASCENSION.

Among Moslems the observance of the injunction against pictures became such a habit that to make portraits or even draw the outlines of a human face has been avoided in all Islam. Nevertheless this regulation can not be traced back to the prophet himself. It might be easily explained from the Mosaic law which forbids making any likeness of God, and since man has been made in the image of God the portraiture of men is likewise to be regarded as sinful. The truth is that Mohammed himself never paid any attention to painting either to approve or disapprove, but Mohammedan art has carefully heeded the interdiction. Under this limitation artists of Islam invented a new style of developing beauty merely by ornamentally interlaced lines, called arabesques.

The modern Moslem seems to feel no inclination to see the likeness of Mohammed represented in art—a desire which would be a very natural one, and showed itself prominently in Christian art. Nevertheless Mohammed has been portrayed in the development of Islam during its spread over Asia. As an instance we reproduce in our frontispiece a picture of the prophet's ascension on his winged horse Borak, here represented with a human head to indicate that it is endowed with a human soul and has been deemed worthy to be received into heaven.

The picture however refrains from showing the face of God. The prophet is led into heaven by an archangel and presented to another who seems to be accompanied by a host of angels whose faces appear above his head. The picture shows the influence of Persian art. It was found in Herat, Afghanistan, and is preserved at the National Library at Paris. It is assumed to date from the beginning of the fifteenth century.